

"These funds will help bolster our small businesses and strengthen South Louisiana's economy," Sen. Landrieu said. "As our region continues to recover, wise investments in regional business development will ensure South Louisiana remains a healthy hub for businesses and we retain jobs in the region."

"South Central Planning and Development Commission has been a valuable resource for small businesses in south Louisiana," Rep. Melancon said. **"SCPDC brings economic development partners together to create solutions to issues facing Gulf Coast communities, helping our economy grow and prosper despite the challenges posed by four major hurricanes in just three years. This grant will help SCPDC build on their current initiatives to attract and retain business in south Louisiana, and I am pleased to announce it."**

SCPDC plans to use the funding to support their regional business development and retention initiatives focusing on workforce development, global competitiveness, and developing a regional solution to air quality issues, a challenge currently facing local industries.

Kevin Bellanger, CEO of SCPDC, said, "As always, we appreciate the assistance EDA has shown our Commission in helping our area recover. We deeply appreciate the assistance provided by Senator Landrieu and Congressman Melancon by being very responsive to our needs and being genuinely concerned about our timely recovery."

The South Central Planning and Development Commission performs a variety of services to meet the changing needs and challenges of its member governments. Among these services are: economic development technical and planning assistance to parish and municipalities in the District; a Revolving Loan Fund designed to link small businesses to financing solutions; assistance in the application and implementation of a variety of grant programs; and information technology services.

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